

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the replacement drawings originally submitted with the response filed October 24, 2005, for not being consecutively numbered as when originally filed.

Replacement sheets for all the drawings Figures 1-39 including amended Figures 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 30, 33, 34, 37, 38 and 39 are being submitted with the concurrently submitted Letter to the Office Draftsperson, in order to comply with this formal requirement, wherein all the drawings together are numbered consecutively.

As submitted with the previous response, in Figures 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 30, 33, 37, 38, and 39 the spelling of "partition" has been corrected. Also, in Figures 16, 18 and 33 the spelling of "acquisition" has been corrected. In Figure 19, the spelling of "default" has been corrected. In Figure 22, the spelling of "conversion" has been corrected. In Figure 25 the spelling of "name" has been corrected. In Figure 26, the spelling of "system" and "disk" has been corrected, and. In Figure 34, the spelling of "coherency" has been corrected. In Figure 37, "marzzge" has been corrected to "merge", one of the numerals "3704" has been corrected to "3705", and the numeral "3705" has been corrected to "3706". In Figure 38, the spelling of "split" has been corrected. In Figure 39, the numeral "3701" has been corrected to "3706". Entry of the drawing corrections to Figures 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 30, 33, 34, 37, 38 and 39 is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated December 29, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20051220). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1 through 11 are currently pending in this application. Also, Claims 1 through 11 have been amended to correct formal errors, place the claims in better form and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All the amendments to the claims are fully supported throughout the specification.

Additional Amendments:

The drawings as amended in the response filed October 24, 2005, are being re-submitted in compliance with the Examiner's formal requirements. The amendments to the drawings are outlined hereinabove and in the accompanying re-submitted Letter to the Office Draftsperson.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1 through 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,549,918 to Probert, Jr. et al., hereinafter referred to as Probert '918. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to a file sharing method in a storage system having a controller and a plurality of disk drives for sharing a file stored in the storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format and accessing the first file stored in the storage system, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of a second file using a second format different from the first format and accessing the second file in the storage system and not identifying the stored-location information of the first file managed by

the first format, the file sharing method being used for reading the file, of which stored-location information is managed by the first format, from the second host computer. The method comprises the steps of: identifying a relationship between a first structure of the stored-location information managed by the first format and a second structure of the stored-location information managed by the second format; converting the stored-location information of the first file managed by the first format into the stored-location information managed by the second format; reading data corresponding to the first file on the basis of the stored-location information managed by the second format from the disk drives; and sending the converted stored-location information of the first file and managed by the second format to the second host computer.

The present invention as recited in claim 4 is directed to a storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of a second file using a second format different from the first format. The storage system of the invention comprises a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to the first host computer and the second host computer, and an interface for connecting to the plurality of disk drives, wherein the disk controller comprises: a means for identifying a relationship between a first structure of the stored-location information managed by the first format and a second structure of the stored-location information managed by the second format; means for converting the stored-location information of the first file managed by the first format into the stored-location information managed by the second format; and a means for reading data corresponding to the first file on the basis of the stored-location information managed by the second format when an access request to access the first file is issued from the second host computer.

Further, the present invention as recited in claim 10 is directed to a storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of a second file using a second format different from the first format. The storage system comprises a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to the first host computer and the second host computer, and an interface for connecting to the plurality of disk drives; wherein the disk

controller mirrors the first file, which is stored in any one of the plurality of disk drives and is managed under the first operating system, in another disk drive of the plurality of disk drives; the disk controller converts the stored-location information of the first file managed by the first format into corresponding stored-location information of the first file that is managed by the second format to write the corresponding stored-location information into the another disk drive; and the disk controller reads the first file from the another disk drive when an access request to access the first file is issued from the second host computer.

In contrast to the present invention as now claimed, Probert '918 merely discloses a software layer, or a filter driver, that resides between software components or application programs running locally or on a client network and a persistent store of an operating system provides on-the-fly-conversions of persistent information formats, and discloses that the filter driver can be used to transparently give older versions of software access to information stored in newer versions (see Abstract of Probert '918).

Further, Probert '918 discloses that the on-the fly-conversion allows clients, such older version applications, to read and write files that are in a newer format, and allows files to be accessed according to "how-to" rules that satisfy the older and newer format requirements. Also, in contrast, Probert '918 discloses that files in the newer format are not degraded into the older format, unless absolutely necessary (see Col. 9, lines 40-45 of Probert '918).

Applicants will respectfully contend that Probert '918 does not disclose or suggest any structure or operation by which, among other features, a disk controller identifies a relationship between a first structure of the stored-location information managed by the first format and a second structure of the stored-location information managed by the second format; converts the stored-location information of the first file managed by the first format into the stored-location information managed by the second format; reads data corresponding to the first file on the basis of the stored-location information managed by the second format when an access request to access the first file is issued from the second host computer; and sends the converted stored-location information of the first file and managed by the second format to the second host computer, as recited in at least claims 1 and 4.

Further, Applicants will contend that Probert '918 fails to disclose or suggest any structure or operation by which, among other features, a disk controller mirrors the first file, which is stored in any one of the plurality of disk drives and is managed under the first operating system, in another disk drive of the plurality of disk drives; the disk controller converts the stored-location information of the first file managed by the first format into corresponding stored-location information of the first file that is managed by the second

format to write the corresponding stored-location information into the another disk drive; and the disk controller reads the first file from the another disk drive when an access request to access the first file is issued from the second host computer, as recited in at least claim 10.

As a result, Applicants will submit that Probert '918 cannot anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the present invention as now claimed. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 through 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) is respectfully requested. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 through 11 are respectfully requested.

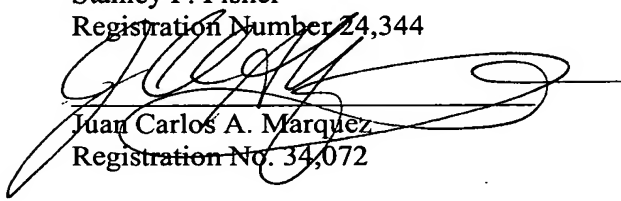
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejection in the Office Action relies. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration No. 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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